

## APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

FY2012 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

<b>Legal Applicant Name:</b> City Year, Inc.	<b>Application ID:</b> 12AC135014
<b>Program Name:</b> City Year Diplomas Now/New York	

*For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. This feedback is provided on a restricted basis and cannot be shared or distributed outside of your organization. We hope you will find this information helpful in completing applications to our future grant competitions. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of your application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory.*

### Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- The applicant spoke on the need in the design and measurement of progress for Members as well as students. The application was presented in a clear, concise, and well documented way. The Performance Measures are within the AmeriCorps standards and are measureable, challenging, and attainable.
- The applicant clearly answers the question 'Why' associated with the use of AmeriCorps members in the proposed intervention. They will provide critical human capital to match the level of student need; provide for comprehensive support structures, differentiate learning strategies in the classroom; and leverage resources to identified needs. There is a public expression of commitment to the project's mission that the applicant requires of each participating AmeriCorps member through a swearing-in ceremony. Personal and professional growth is highlighted through the implementation of a comprehensive, thoughtful and structured training and leadership development program.
- The applicant provided a clear overview of the evaluation/measurement procedure used to measure progress. The outcomes are specific and provide a clear picture of the overall impact the program will have in addressing the identified needs in the community served by the four schools.
- The proposed intervention compliments Mayor Bloomberg's initiative to combat chronic truancy in New York City Schools. The intervention is also in alignment with the NYC Department of Education's district-wide school reform to increase graduation rates and improve college readiness. A powerful partnership is outlined between NYC School Department of Education, Talent Development, Communities in Schools and City Year.
- Compelling, yet sketchy, evidence is provided of the impact that poor academic performance has had on the economic and social wellbeing of the identified Contiguous Community Districts located in West and Central Bronx, NY.
- The applicant presented well-documented needs that clearly serve as a foundation that supports the overall program design.

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- The amount of time that volunteers with the project is minimal with 600 volunteers giving 1800 hours on special projects translates into each volunteer giving three hours. The application does not indicate how the volunteers are an integral part of the project. This lack appears to not foster the inclusion of volunteers on a significant level nor does it foster the spirit of volunteerism in assisting to resolve the problems within the respective communities of the target area.